

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A purified polypeptide ~~comprising~~ consisting of SEQ ID NO:9.

11. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 10.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A method of inducing an antigenic response in a subject which comprises administering to the subject the polypeptide of claim 10.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is administered in the form of a host cell that expresses the polypeptide.

18.(Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the host cell is a bacterial strain.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the bacterial strain is attenuated or killed.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is administered to the subject in the form of a food or a drink.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the drink is a carbonated beverage.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is orally

administered.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) An antigenic composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 10.

26. (Previously presented) The antigenic composition of claim 25, and further comprising at least one C<sub>ss</sub>B protein.

27-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 10, encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.